

Two Rivers School District

Community Survey Report
Spring 2022





Our mission is to help educational leaders gather, organize, and use data to make strategic decisions.

- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **10,000** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **850** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

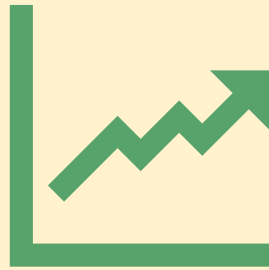
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Our Process



Each household within the District was mailed a paper survey.
Respondents could:

1) Fill out the paper survey and return directly to School Perceptions

or

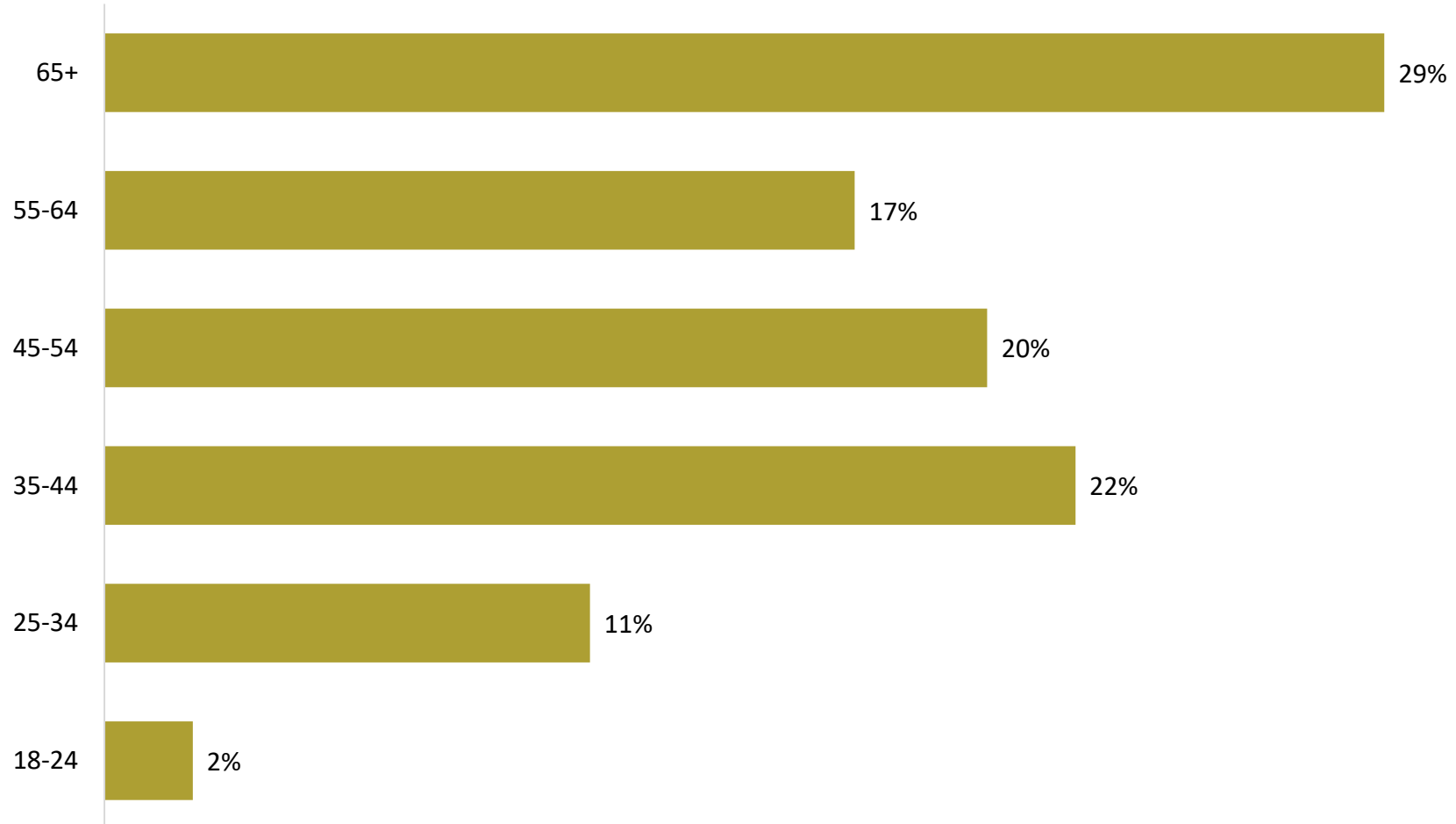
2) Take the survey online with a one-time-use code

Survey Information

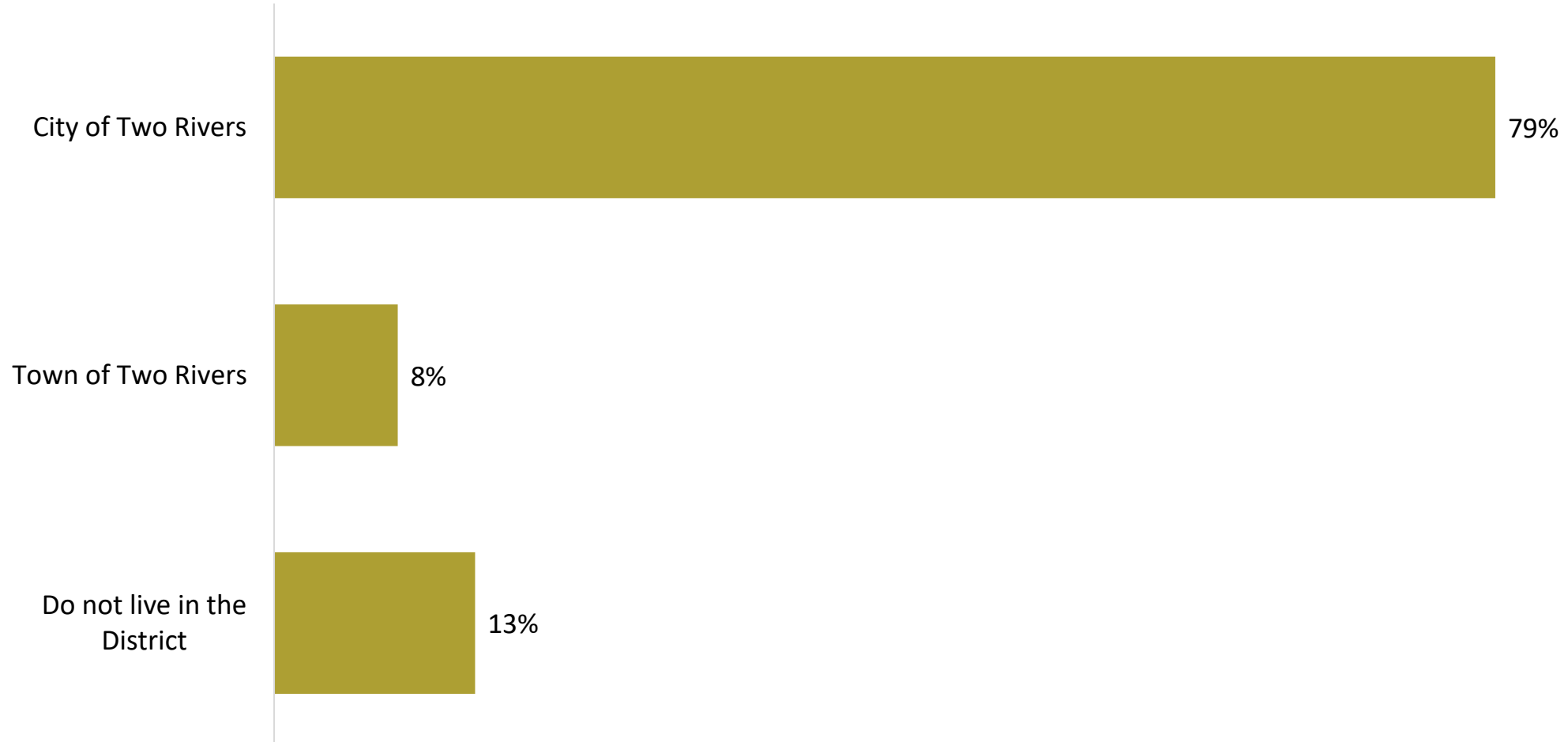


- **February and March 2022** survey window
- **883** total respondents
- **14%** participation rate
- +/- **3.36%** margin of error

Respondent Age



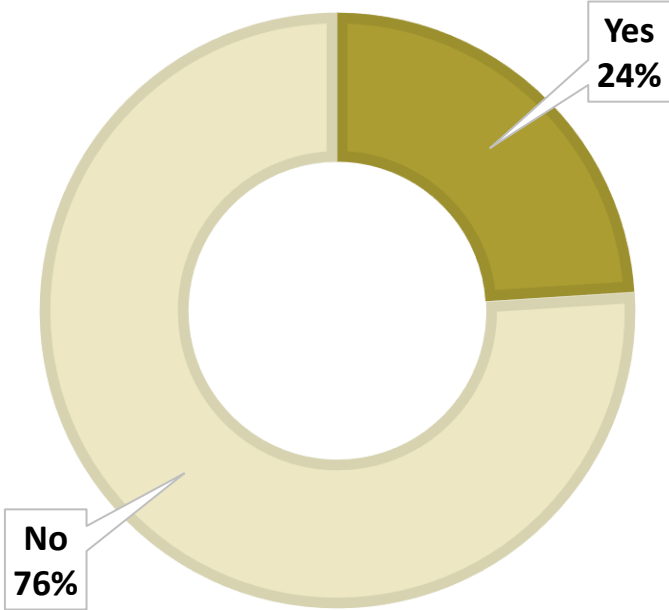
In which community do you live?



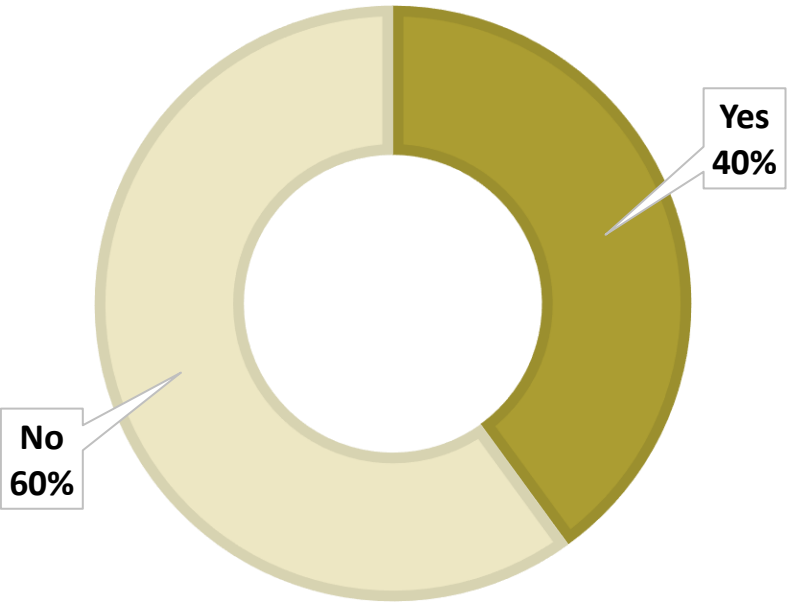
Respondent Information



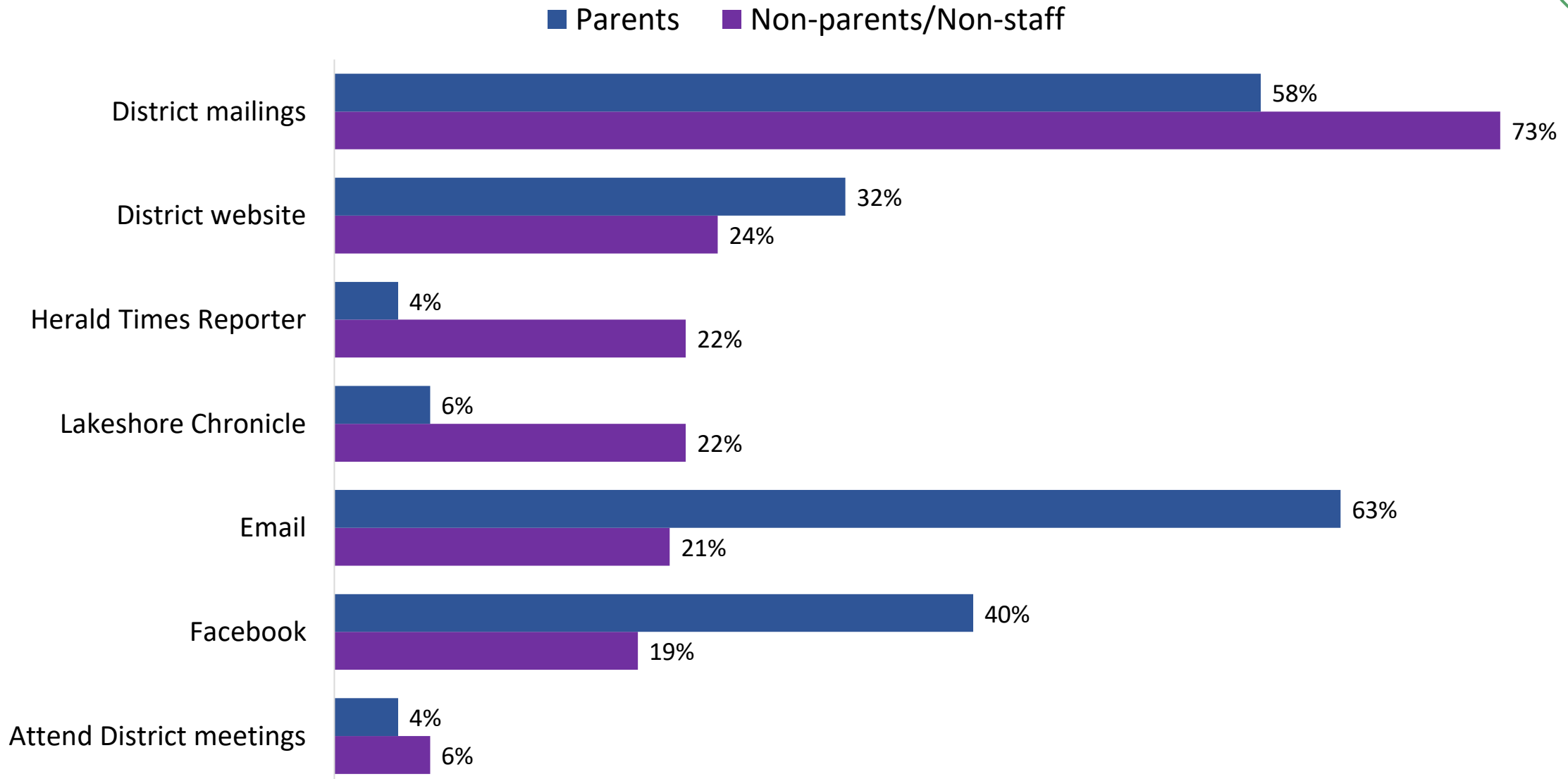
Are you an employee of the Two Rivers School District?



Do you have a child/children attending school in the District?



How would you like to receive information regarding the facility planning process? (Mark all that apply.)

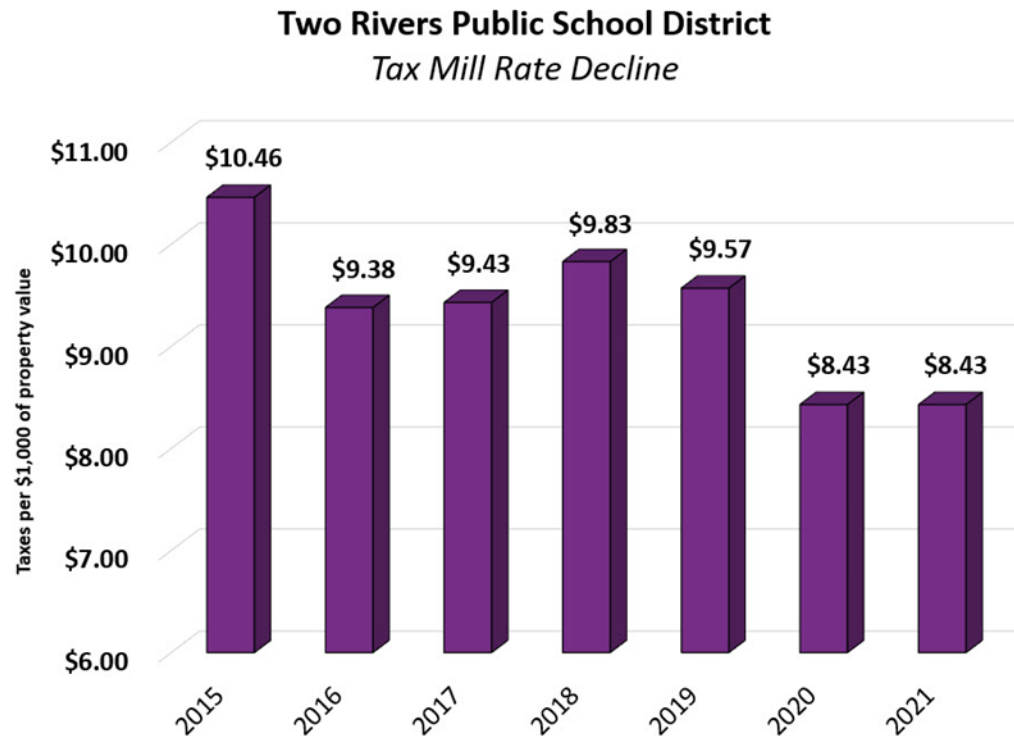


Financial Background



People often ask us about our tax rates. The District's share of property taxes is calculated using a mill rate. As seen in the chart below, our tax mill rate has dropped by more than 19 percent since 2015.

Additionally, in March 2020, we made our final loan payment on the high school building project. In March 2023, the District will be debt-free.



Facility Planning Background



This past year, the District contracted with an outside firm to evaluate the condition of all our schools' building systems, security, and classroom needs. To view the entire report, please visit our website.

Some of the most pressing needs identified in the report are at our middle school:

Facility Planning Background: School Capacity & Classrooms



L. B. Clarke was built in 1968 to serve students in seventh and eighth grade. Additions in 1990 and 1998 created space for sixth-grade students. When Case Elementary School was closed in 2005, fifth-grade students were also moved to the middle school. The gym and cafeteria were not expanded to serve these additional students. Therefore, the gym and cafeteria are still too small, which creates scheduling challenges. In addition, many classrooms are undersized, and the school lacks spaces for both large- and small-group instruction. The tech ed (“shop”) area cannot support the curriculum. The special education areas also need to be updated to serve students with disabilities.

Facility Planning Background: Traffic Flow



L. B. Clarke's parking lots are too small, and the traffic configuration creates congestion, resulting in safety concerns for pedestrians and residents living near the school.

Facility Planning Background: Safety, Security, & Accessibility



While the building is secure, improvements are needed to better monitor and control visitor access. The building also needs monitoring equipment on exterior doors and additional security cameras.

Initially, we explored building a new middle school. However, at an estimated cost of more than \$45 million, this option was too expensive.

Facility Planning Background



Other major needs identified in the report across the District include:

Facility Planning Background: Technology Infrastructure



Improvements are needed at all schools to improve internet access, reliability, and speed. The public address (PA) system also needs to be replaced.

Facility Planning Background: Building Systems



Major building systems are at or have exceeded their useful life, resulting in ongoing costly repairs. These systems include heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC); electrical; plumbing; roofing; exterior doors; windows; and fire alarms.

Facility Planning Background: Support Areas



The playgrounds and equipment at both the elementary and middle schools require updates, allowing for more accessibility for all students, including those with special needs. These spaces would be available for the community to use outside of school hours.

The cost of these projects is too large to be paid for out of the annual operating budget. Therefore, the District would need to ask voters to consider funding through a capital referendum.

Recommended Plan



Last year, the District formed a facilities committee to study our needs and develop options. This group was made up of 17 dedicated people, including Board members, administrators, parents, and community members. **After completing their analysis, the committee is recommending the following plan to address the most urgent needs across our district at an estimated cost of \$38.7 million:**

Recommended Plan



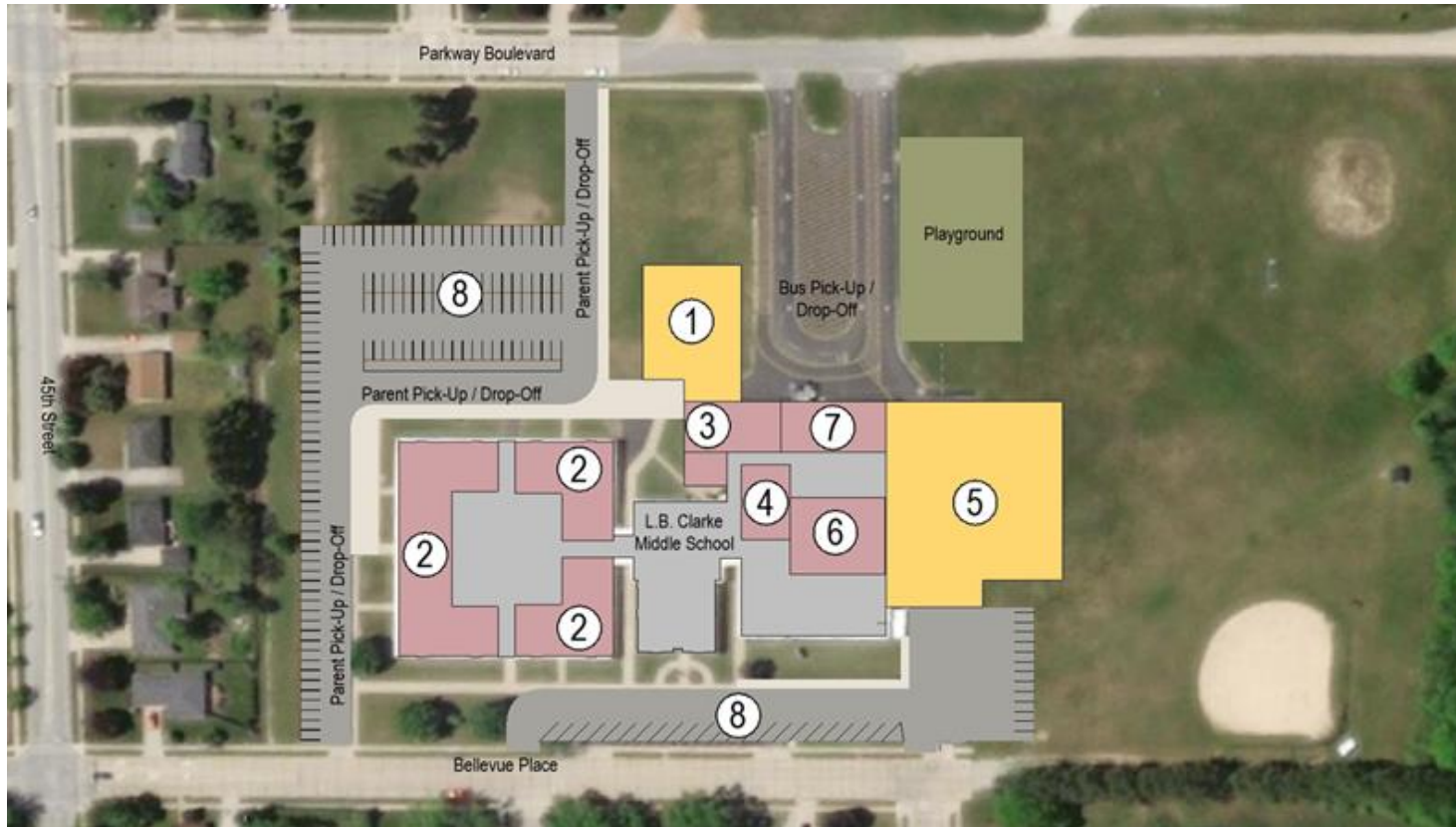
- ✓ Improve building security: This project would update the main entrances at Two Rivers High School, L. B. Clarke Middle School, Koenig Elementary, and Magee Elementary. With these changes, all visitors would be required to check in at the office before gaining access to the schools.
- ✓ Update building systems and technology access: This project would update/replace major building system components (e.g., HVAC, electrical, plumbing, fire alarm, internet) and replace roof sections, doors, and windows, as needed.
- ✓ Renovate elementary and middle school playground: This project would update playgrounds at the elementary and middle schools, including specialized equipment for students with disabilities.

Recommended Plan



- ✓ Update L. B. Clarke Middle School. The image below is a preliminary concept to:
 1. Add six classrooms with collaborative spaces for fifth-grade students.
 2. Renovate classrooms for sixth through eighth grade to improve/provide flexible learning areas.
 3. Relocate the school office to better monitor and control visitor access.
 4. Expand the cafeteria to hold more students (which reduces scheduling conflicts).
 5. Add gym space and band, music, and art classrooms.
 6. Renovate the current gym into a multipurpose area.
 7. Update/expand the tech ed (“shop”) and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) labs.
 8. Expand parking/reconfigure driveways to reduce traffic congestion around the entire school.

Recommended Plan

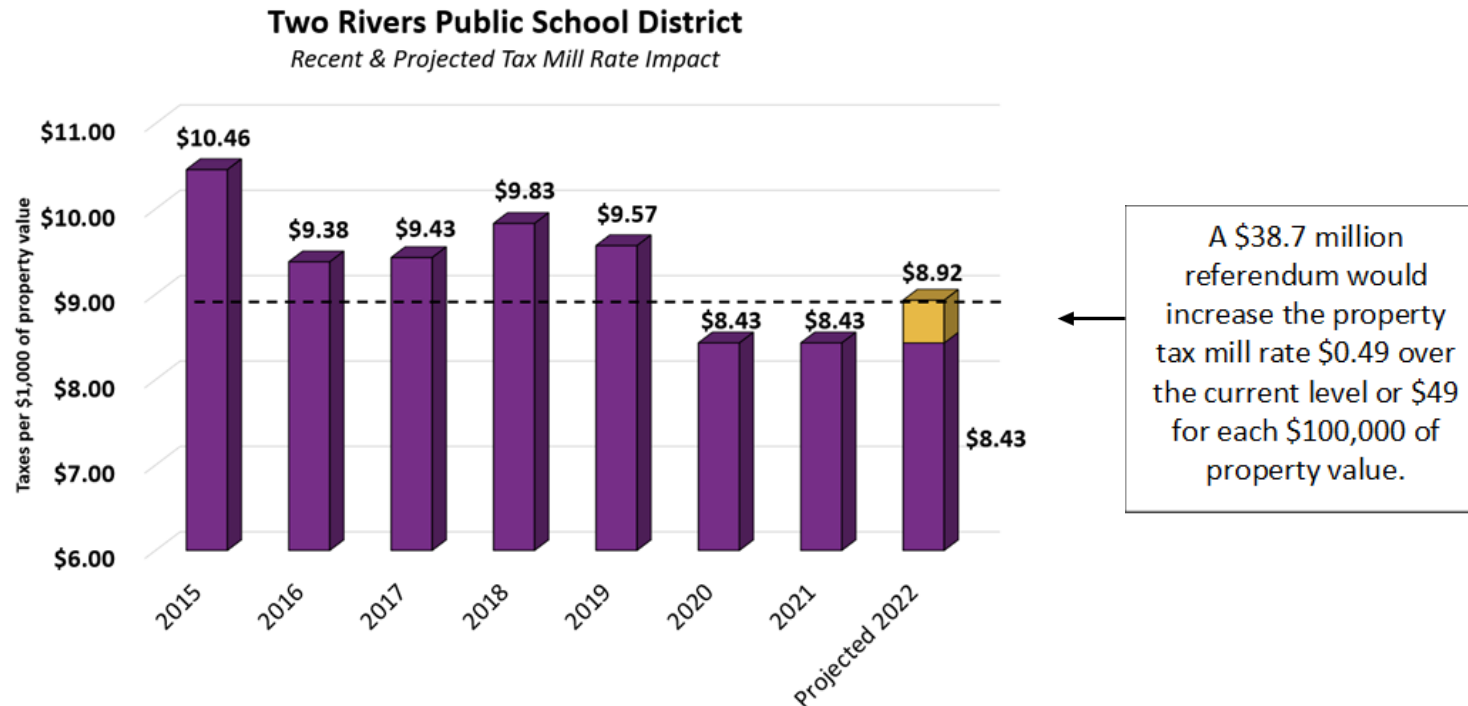


The committee worked with the City of Two Rivers to secure the land needed to expand the middle school if Two Rivers voters support this project.

Funding Support: Recommended Plan



The Board of Education believes this is a good time to consider upgrades to the facilities because of our healthy financial situation and because interest rates remain near historic lows. The cost of the plan is \$38.7 million. Voters would need to approve a referendum to pay for these projects.



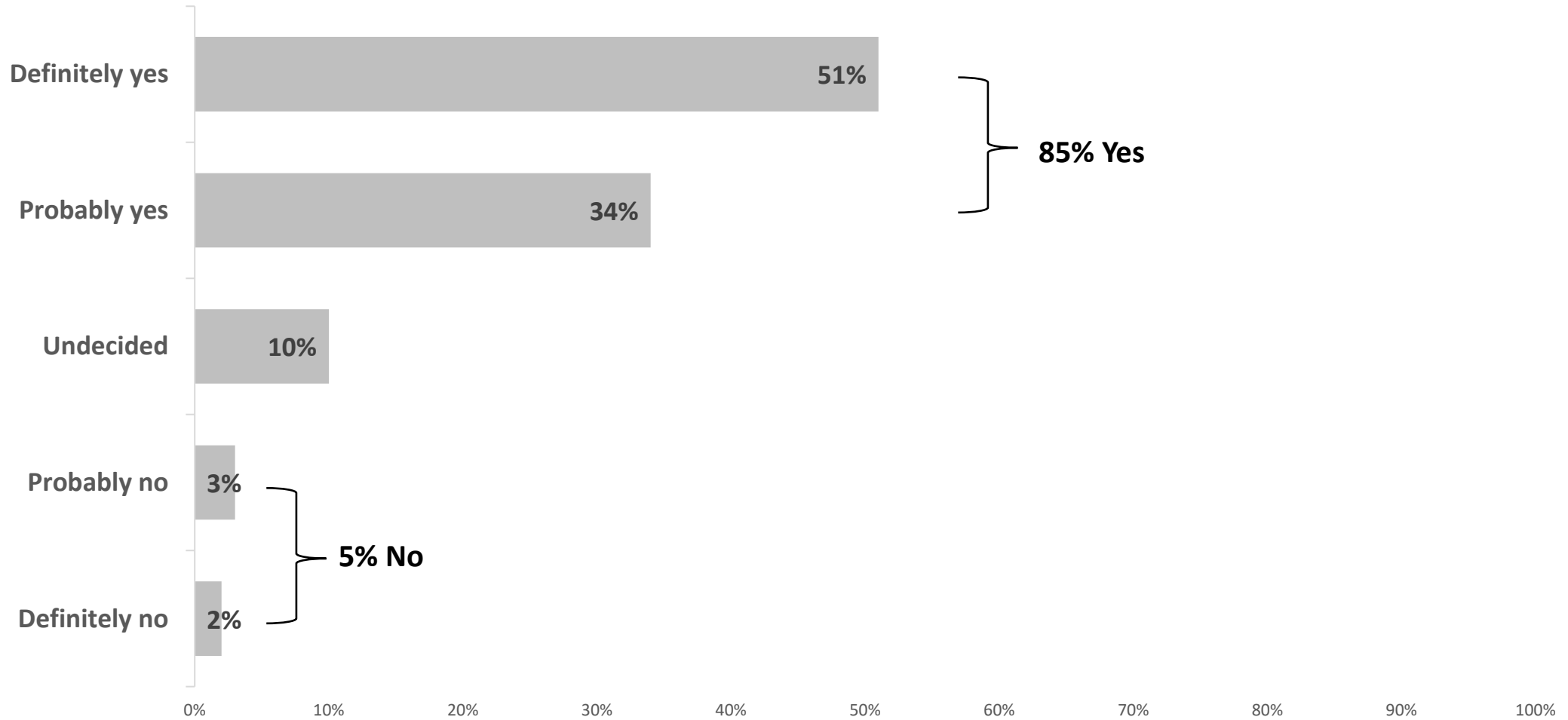


Results

Funding Support: Would you support a \$38.7 million referendum to fund the recommended plan?



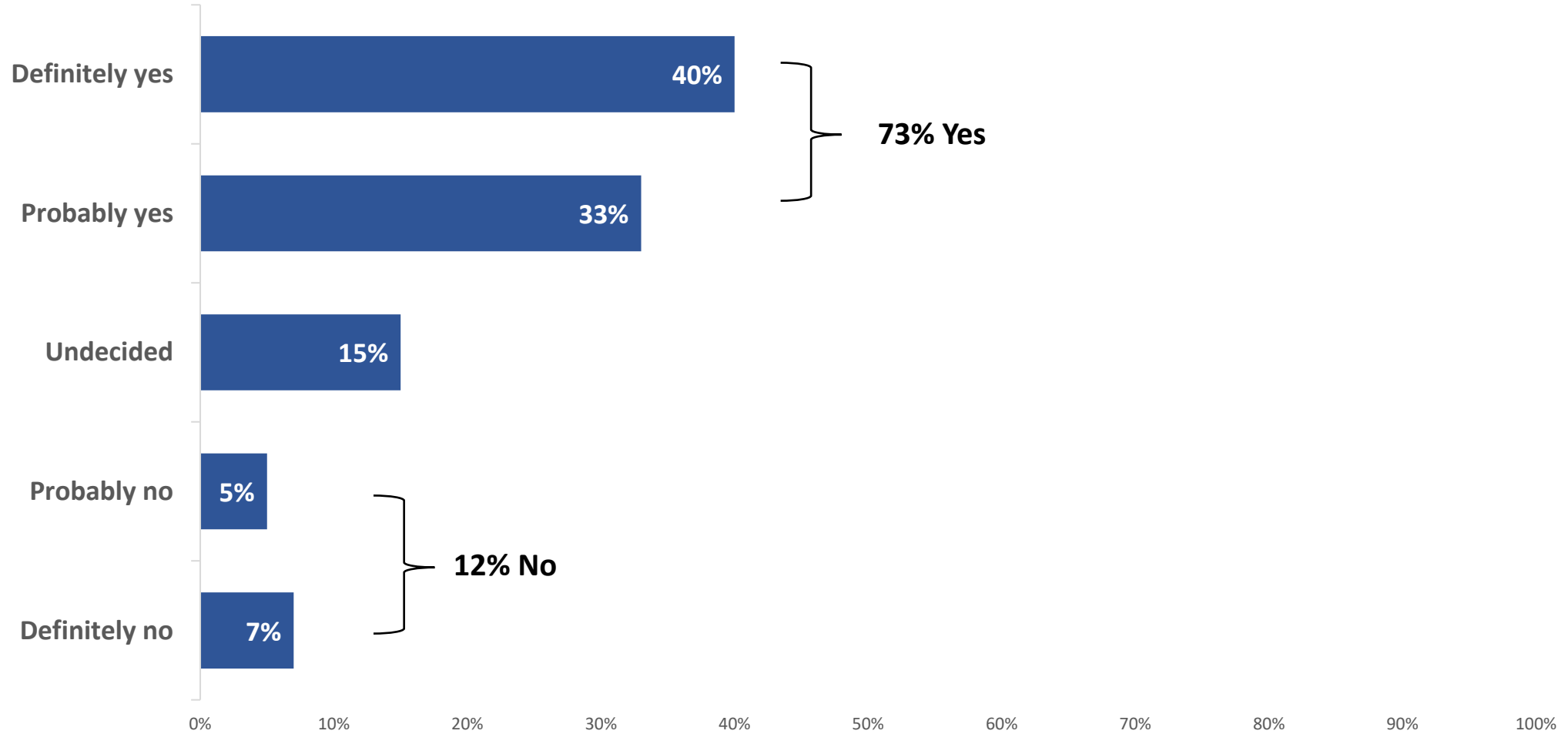
Staff Residents



Funding Support: Would you support a \$38.7 million referendum to fund the recommended plan?



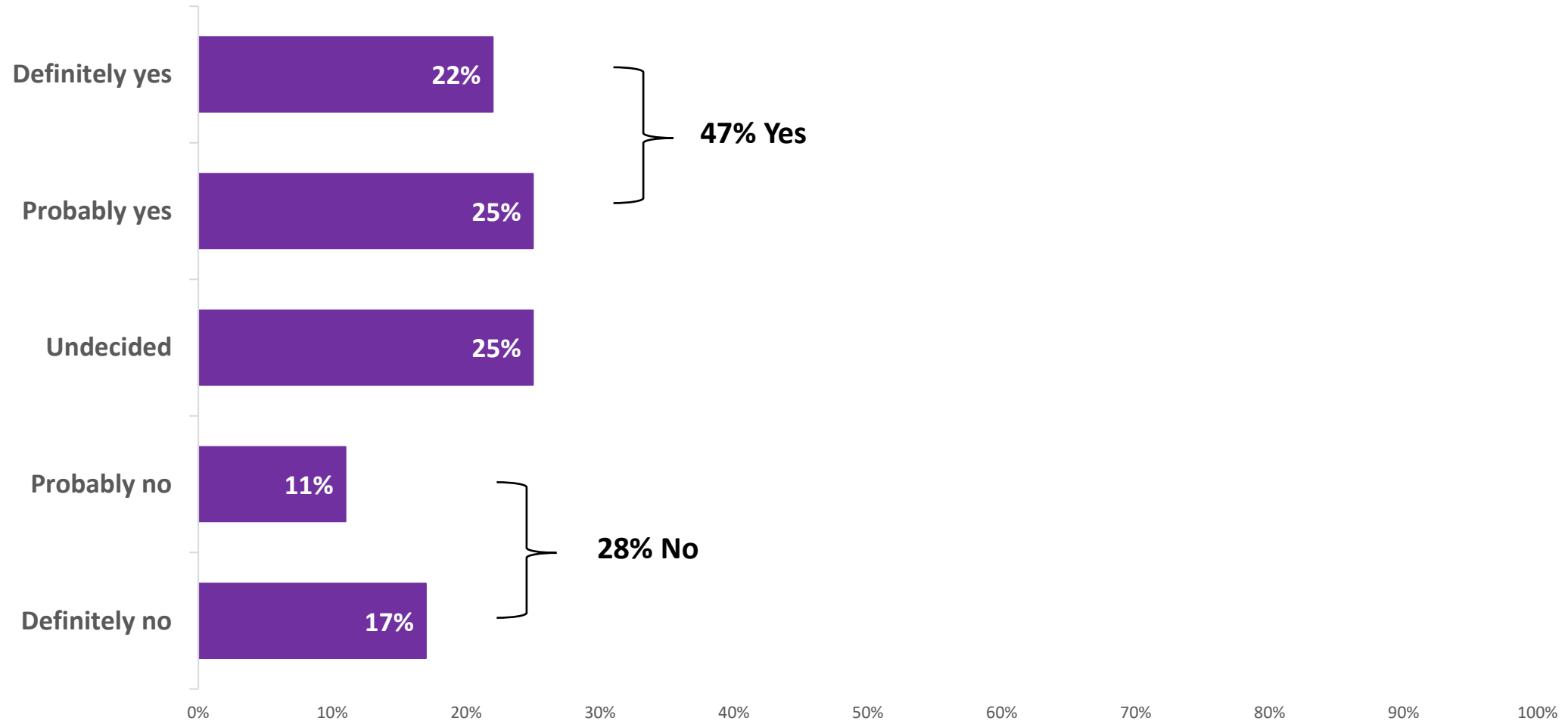
Parent Residents



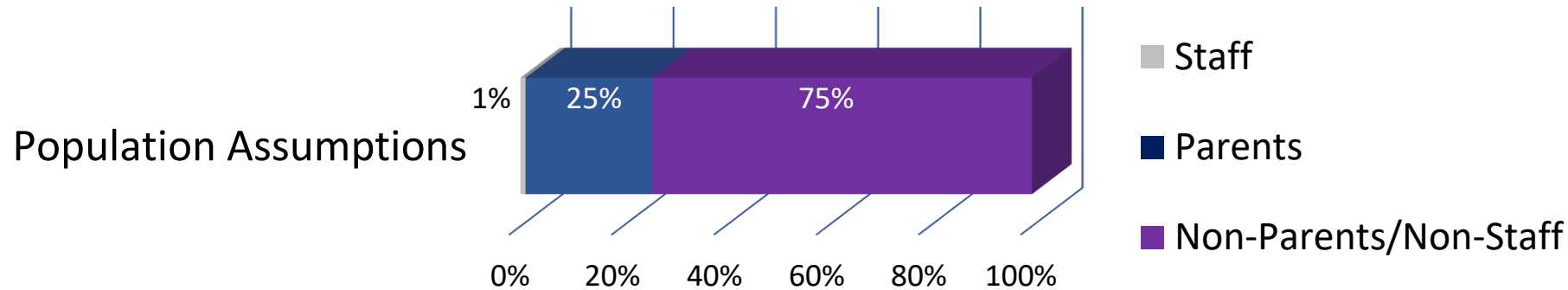
Funding Support: Would you support a \$38.7 million referendum to fund the recommended plan?



Non-parent/Non-staff Residents



Would the referendum be supported?



Of those Non-Parent/Non-Staff and Parents responding
“Definitely yes” or “Probably Yes”

$$0.75 (47\%) + 0.25 (73\%) = \underline{\underline{53.5\%}}$$

Additional Projects

Our planning process identified five other projects for community feedback. These projects would be in addition to the \$38.7 million recommended plan.



Auditorium: The high school cafeteria and auditorium share the same space. This setup creates scheduling challenges and limits rehearsals. This space is too small for special school/community events and accommodating all high students at one time.

The District could explore building a 600-seat auditorium. This space could include a lobby with a separate entrance, restrooms, dressing rooms, storage, and spaces for costume/set design. **(Estimated cost: \$8.9 to \$10.5 million)**

Four-year-old Kindergarten (4K): The District does not have enough space to serve all 4K students in our facilities, requiring us to lease space at offsite locations. It is anticipated that the Department of Public Instruction could mandate all-day 4K.

The District could explore building age-appropriate classrooms at Koenig and Magee Elementary Schools to serve all 4K students. **(Estimated cost: \$8.6 to \$10.2 million)**

Elementary Lunchrooms: The elementary schools serve lunch in the gym. This requires daily set-up/take-down of tables and creates scheduling challenges for physical education classes.

The District could explore building a dedicated lunchroom at Koenig and/or Magee Elementary Schools. **(Estimated cost: \$7.4 to \$8.7 million)**

Long-Term Planning

Our planning process identified five other projects for community feedback. These projects would be in addition to the \$38.7 million recommended plan.



Synthetic Turf: The high school track needs to be resurfaced. While that work is being done, the District could install synthetic turf on the football field. This surface could be used year-round for physical education, multiple sport practices, co-curricular activities, and community use without concern for field conditions. This investment would also reduce field maintenance costs. **(Estimated cost: \$1.5 million)**

Baseball/Add Softball Fields: The District does not have a competition girls' softball field on campus, and the baseball field needs significant updates.

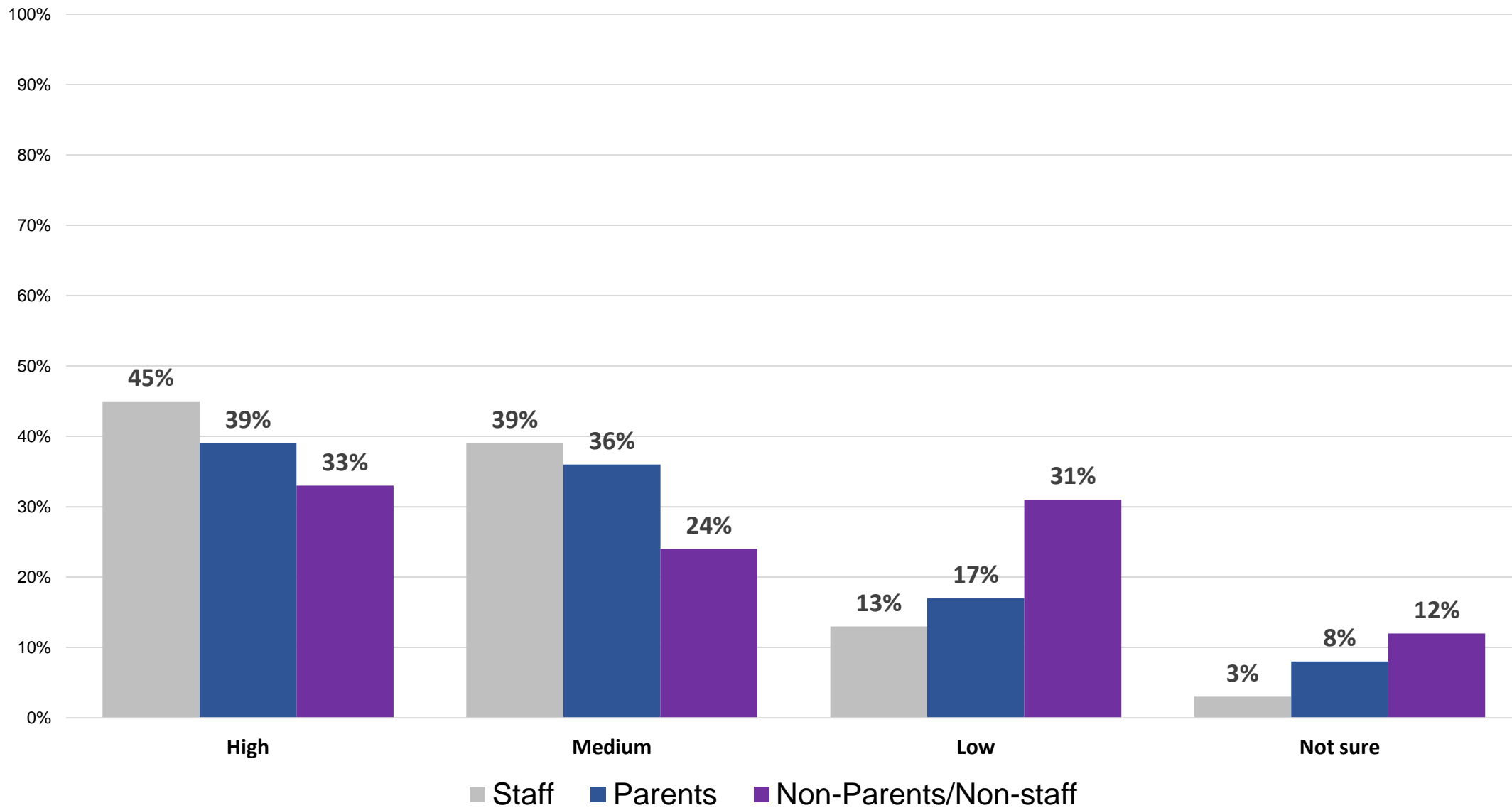
The project could construct a softball field and update the baseball field, bleachers, dugouts, scoreboards, and install lighting. **(Estimated cost: \$1 to \$1.25 million)**

Long-Term Planning Priorities *(All Respondents)*

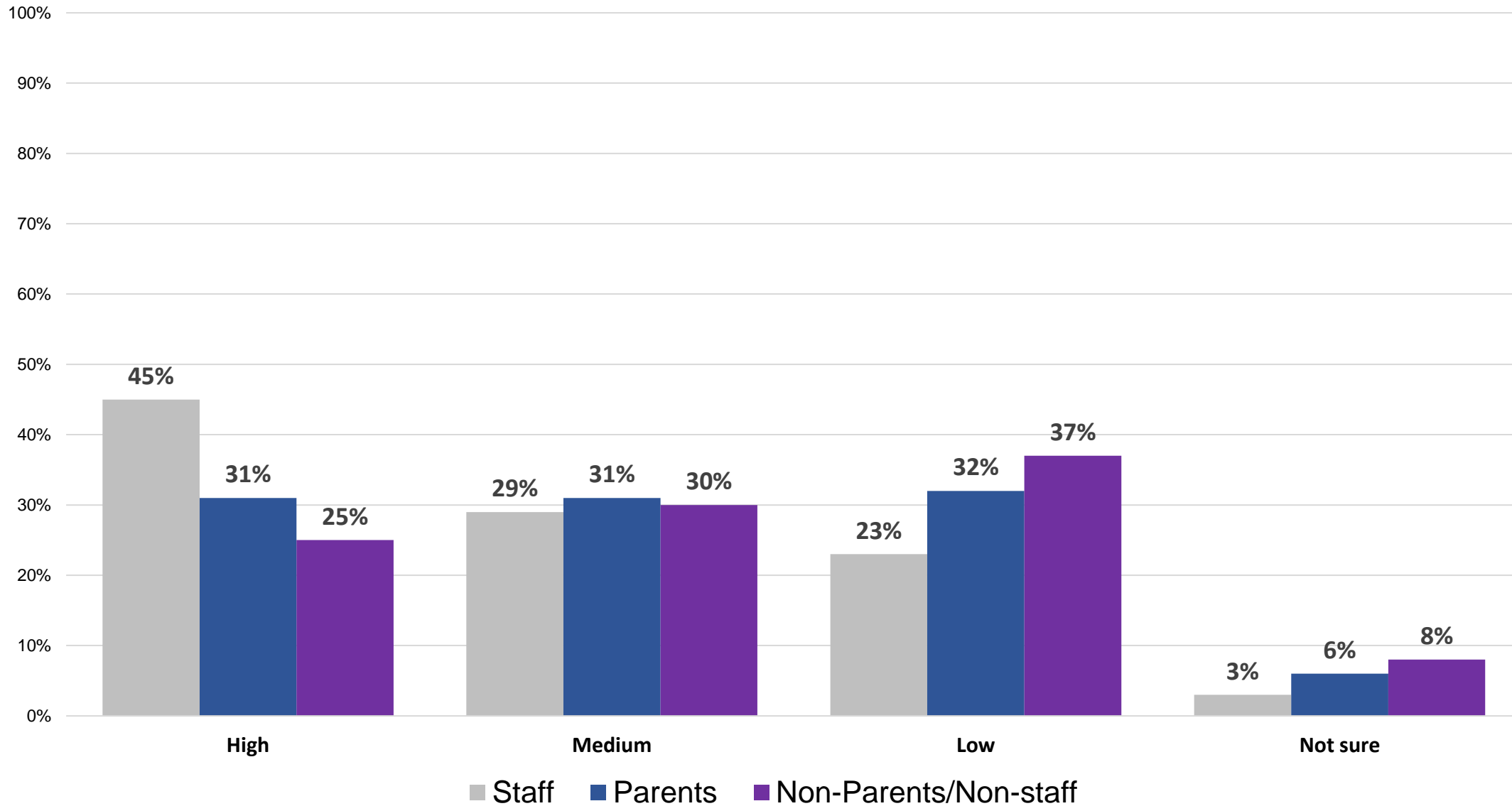


Four-year-old Kindergarten (4K)		Priority Score=2.20
Elementary Lunchrooms		Priority Score=2.02
Auditorium		Priority Score=1.71
Baseball/Add Softball Fields		Priority Score=1.67
Synthetic Turf		Priority Score=1.60

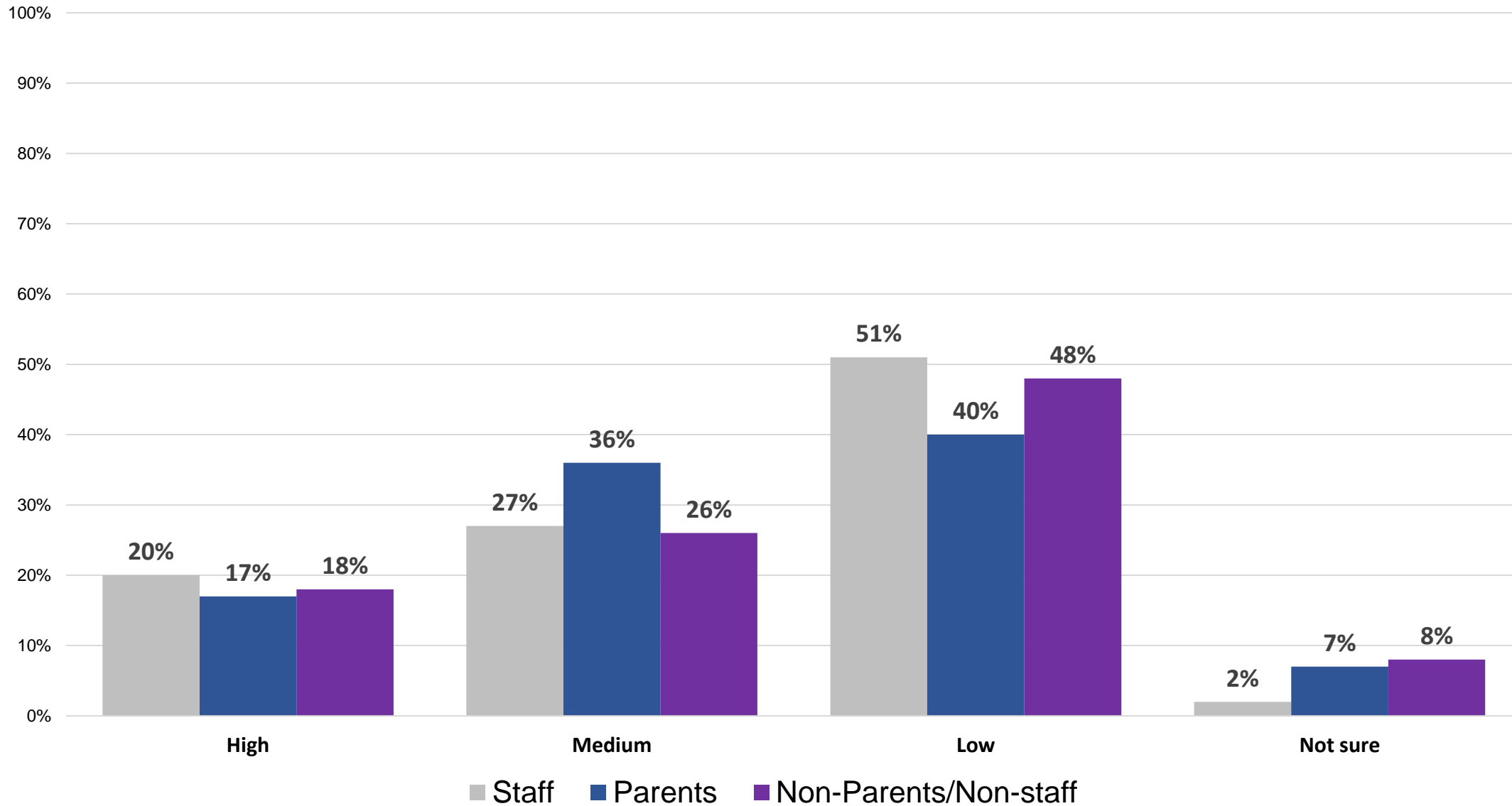
What priority would you place on Four-year-old Kindergarten (4K)?



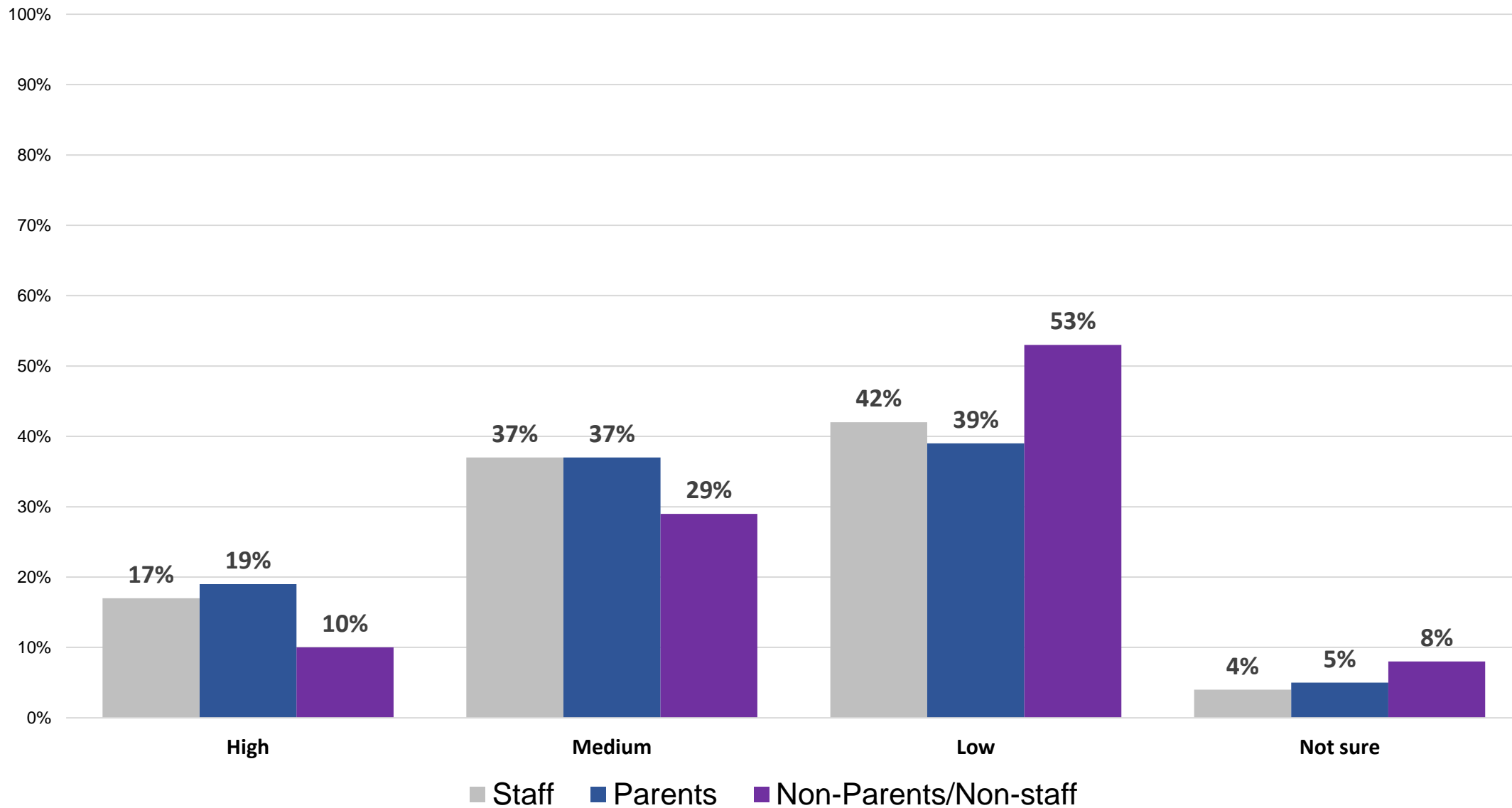
What priority would you place on Elementary Lunchrooms?



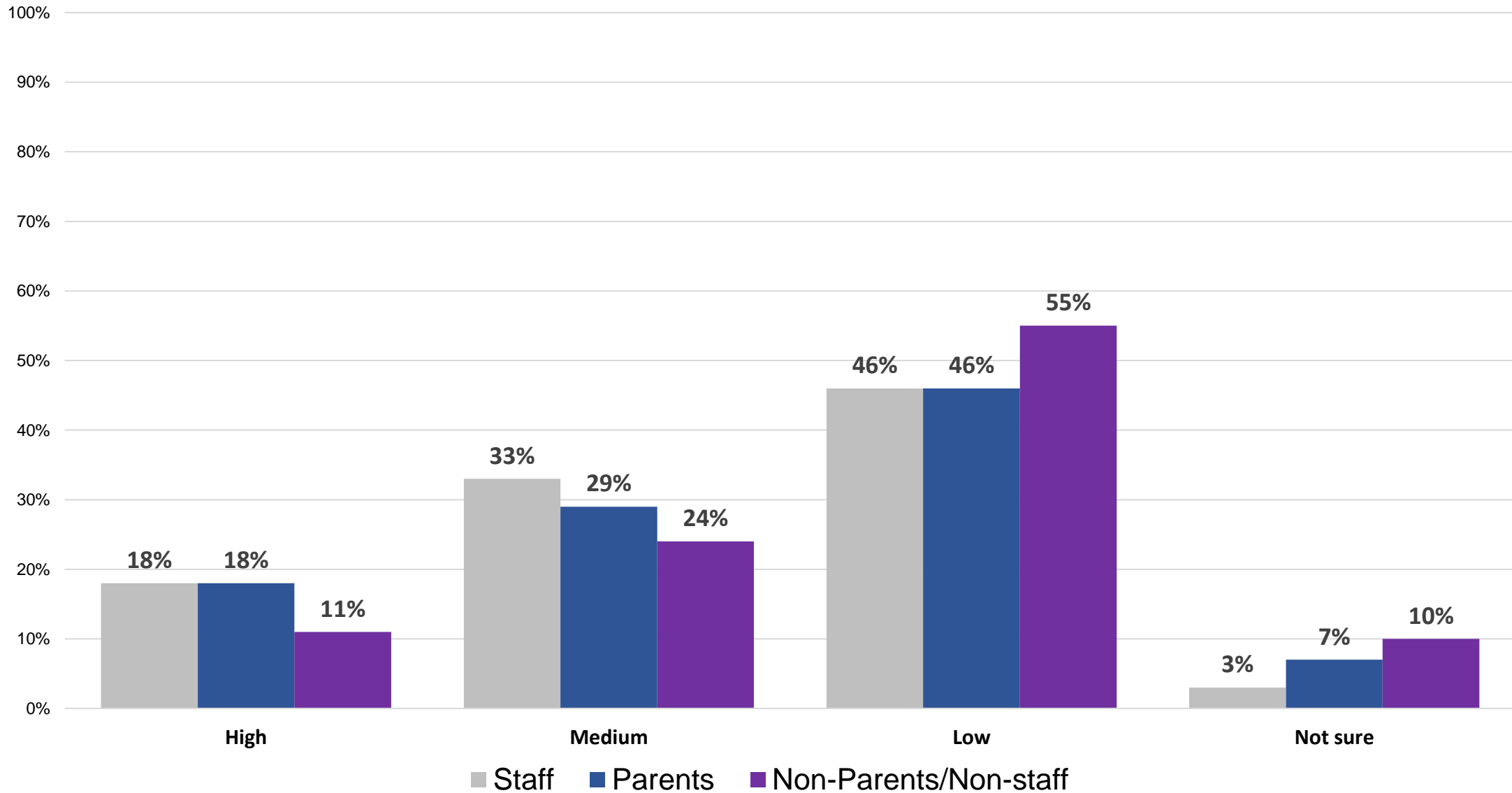
What priority would you place on the Auditorium?



What priority would you place on Baseball/Softball Fields?



What priority would you place on Synthetic Turf?

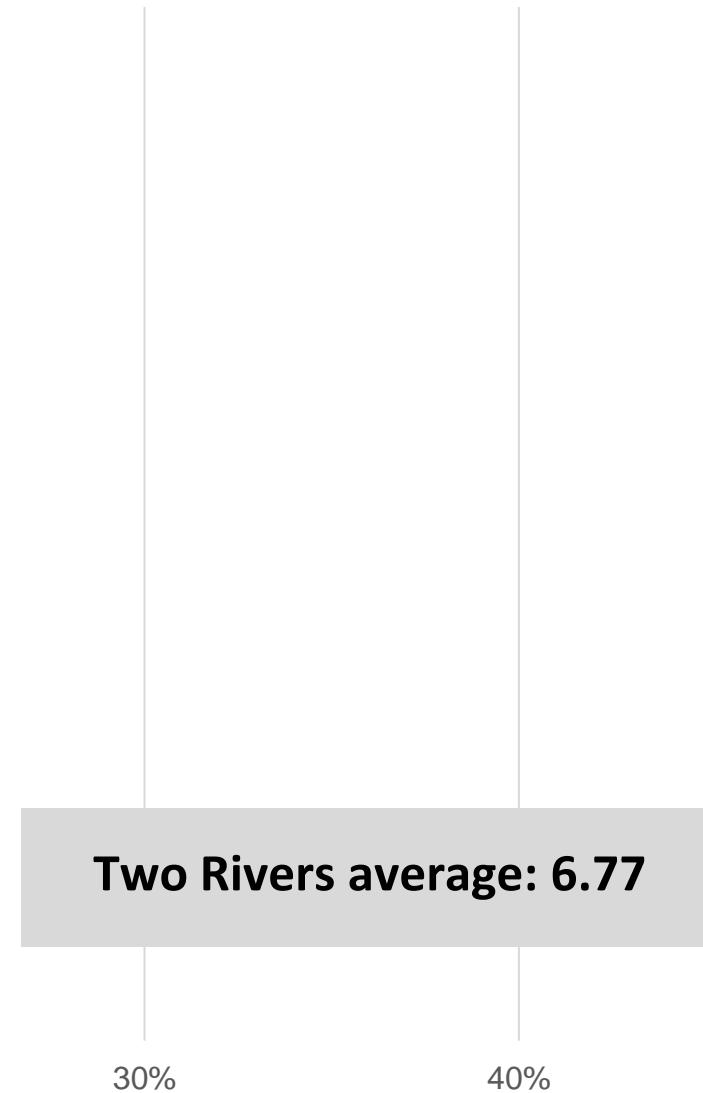
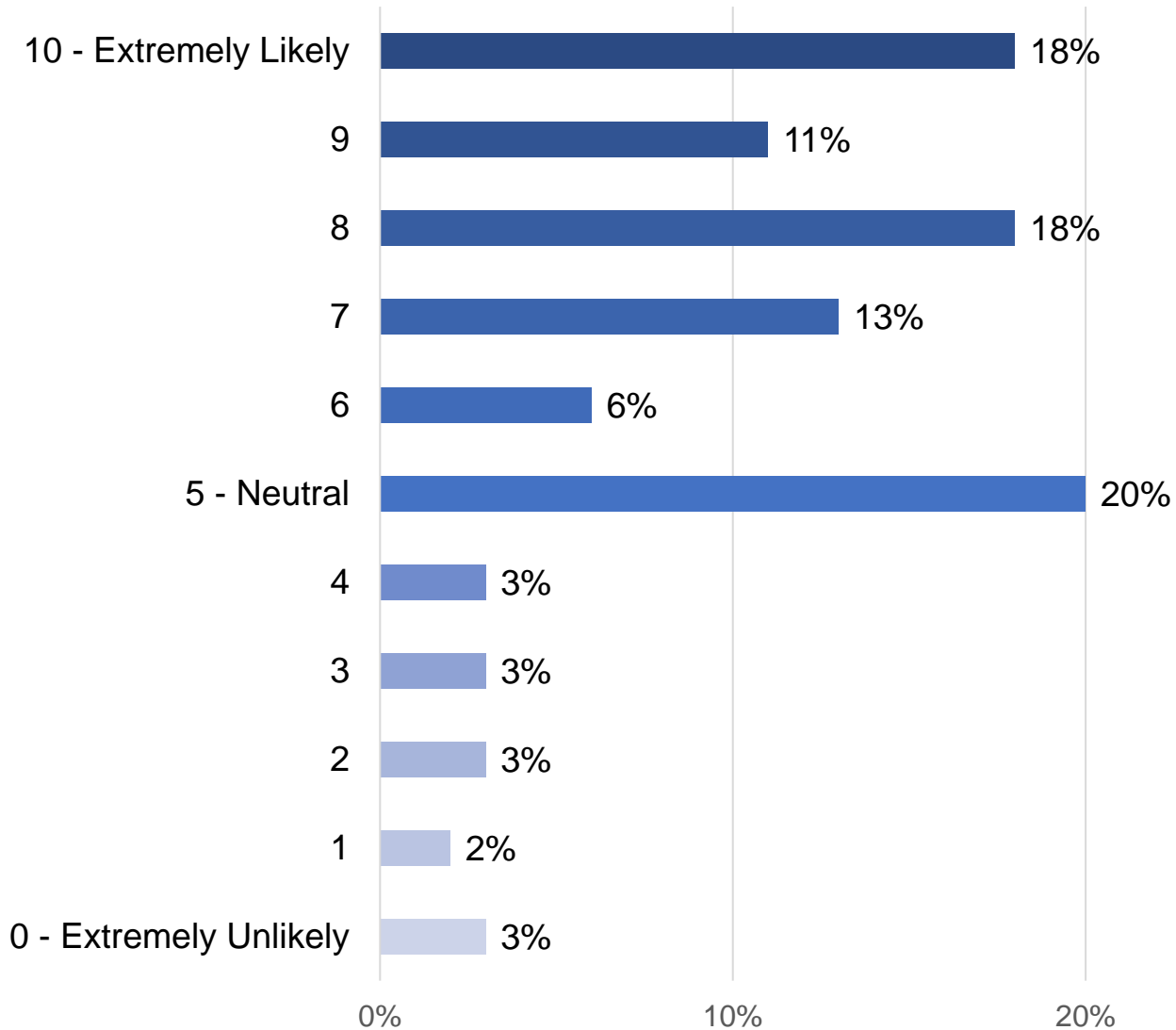


How well are we doing in the following areas? *(All Respondents)*



Item	Percent "Great" or "Good"	Average	Percentile
Managing funds appropriately	75%	2.93	68 th
Keeping the public informed	73%	2.93	59 th
Building pride in the community	76%	2.96	42 nd
Delivering a high-quality education	72%	2.84	16 th

How likely are you to recommend the District to a friend or family member? *(All Respondents)*





What did we learn?

The BoE could consider pursuing a \$38.7 million referendum to fund the Recommended Plan next November. If held today, the referendum would likely be supported.

Beyond the Recommended Plan, the highest planning priorities are:

- ✓ Building age-appropriate classrooms at Koenig and Magee Elementary Schools to serve all 4K students.
- ✓ Building a dedicated lunchroom at Koenig and/or Magee Elementary Schools.

The District scored above average in managing funds and keeping the public informed. The perception is that more work is needed in delivering a high-quality education.



Questions or Comments?



Thank you!